

CITY AND COUNTY OF NORWICH.

S U M M A R Y
OF
ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

For the War Year 1917.

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Summary of Annual Report.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
NORWICH URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

MY LORD MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with a resolution passed by the Health Committee, I do not submit the detailed Report for 1917 but this abstracted summary of it.

The General Register Office having advised that the civil population, in calculating mortality returns, should be estimated at (in round numbers) 110,000; *death rates* are based on that figure; *birth rates* being calculated on a population estimated by the G.R.O. at (roughly) 122,000.

The birth rate for the year, calculated on the figures supplied by the G.R.O., was 16 per 1000 of the population *at all ages*—and is *the lowest* we have ever recorded; in 1916 the birth rate was 19 per 1000.

The *gross recorded death rate*, 14·0 per 1000 of the population of all ages, is lower than that for 1916, viz., 16·0 per 1000.

The *infantile mortality rate*, 96· per 1000 *births*, compares favourably with that (99·) for 1916, and is *the lowest we have ever recorded*. Of the infants born there was a male majority of 45. 165 of the infants born were illegitimate, 24 less than in 1916 when this figure was 189 (and out of these 165 infants 33 died under one year), so that, though there were absolutely fewer illegitimate children born, the relative proportion was higher, viz., $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the total births, compared with

8 per cent. in 1916. The special infantile mortality rate amongst the illegitimate was *200 per 1000 births*, whilst that of the legitimately born was *80 per 1000 births*. The necessity for increased supervision and care of illegitimate offspring is made sufficiently obvious by the figures recorded, which would have been even higher than they are but for the efforts made by the Health Visitors, and by the Norwich Guild of Help for Girls (Hon. Sec., Mrs. Whitty, 17, The Crescent), a Society deserving to be more generously supported; its methods are tactful, humane, and unobtrusive, whilst its work, to my thinking, cannot easily be praised too highly.

The *zymotic death rate*, 0·6 per 1000, is fractionally lower than that (0·65) for 1916; but the *special death rate for diarrhœal diseases up to 2 years of age*, which the Local Government Board asks us separately to record, 15·5 per 1000 births, is fractionally higher than that (15·3) for 1916.

During the year the Health Visitors (who also act as School Nurses) paid 14,333 visits and re-visits to dwellings—3150 in connection with medical inspections of school children in the schools. At their suggestion 118 houses and 406 persons were cleansed, 17 of the latter compulsorily. Of the *newly-born* infants 1357 of the 1637 visited, or 82 per cent., were being fed from the breast at the time of the visit (10-12th day); 44 only being found at any stage of life, fed with *long-tube* bottles; 291 of the infants were ailing at the time of the first visit, or roughly 1 in 5·5—an improvement on the 1916 proportion (1 in 4·5). 47 only of the mothers were reported as being “badly nourished”—the number in 1916 having been 116. (To these, on my recommendation, the Sick Poor Society gave its highly valued help). Bad methods of feeding were changed for better ones in 227 instances. 25 still-births were notified (and specially reported on) and the birth of 28 sets of twins. 265 infants were fed wholly or partially on *dried milk*

powder supplied from my department—these babies being seen at the Infant Welfare Centre, and weighed at intervals, with on the whole very encouraging results—in some instance with quite remarkable results. Of the dwellings visited, those with one bedroom only (7·7 per cent.) contained *averaged* populations of 4·4 persons at all ages; those having two bedrooms (37·7 per cent.) 5·1 persons at all ages of 2·5 per bedroom; those with three bedrooms (43·1 per cent.) 6·6 persons at all ages, or 2·2 per bedroom; those with four bedrooms (8·8 per cent.) 5·4 persons at all ages, or 1·3 per bedroom: 2·7 per cent. of the dwellings visited contained more than four bedrooms.

The Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre established on the ground floor of the old Eye Infirmary, Pottergate Street, has been very successful; as many as 79 infants being brought on one occasion; apart from its intrinsic desirability I have seriously to consider the prospective necessity of holding more clinics, if only to avoid relative crowding; but it is not possible definitely to decide upon further arrangements until I get a fuller staff of doctors and health visitors and know where we shall be quartered—all the existing arrangements being tentative and all dependent upon the duration of the war. (Dr. Margaret Boileau has generously given most valuable help gratuitously). I hope, later, vastly to extend the maternity side of the service. Arrangements have been made for pre-natal consultations, with a skilled obstetrician, and for the admission of certain cases to the Maternity Institution. I remain the more pleased to record the success which has been secured, because it has been so quietly and unobtrusively acquired. There has been no attempt to obtain adventitious notoriety, no baby shows, “pram parades,” etc., etc., for all of which I entertain a distrust only measurable by an inexpressible disdain. [Some 400 babies were brought to the Welfare Centre during the year.]

Tuberculous Diseases.—During the year the total number of notified ^{Cases} which reached me was 144:—116 of tuberculosis of the lungs (Phthisis) and 28 of other forms of the disease. (In 1917 the corresponding figures were 175 and 28). To these cases 1382 visits were made by officers of the Public Health Department. Of the total numbers, 59 per cent. were males, 41 females; 32 per cent. married; 52 single; 2 per cent. widows or widowers and the others under marriageable age. In the 144 cases reported on, there was evidence of tuberculous taint in the family history of 54, and 44 had received either hospital or sanatorium treatment; 88 were insured; 92 had a separate bedroom, 23 a separate bed in a room occupied jointly with another, and 29 shared a bed with another person: 19 of the men and 10 of the women were engaged in boot factories. 11 other women were householders, and 13 men discharged soldiers; and there were 18 school children (11 boys and 7 girls). There were 155 deaths from Phthisis, and 81 from other forms of tuberculous disease. 14 in the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, 33 in the Union Infirmary, 2 in the Isolation Hospital, and 8 in the Jenny Lind Infirmary. In the Union Infirmary 69 cases were admitted during the year, and on January 1st, 1918, there were 28 Phthisical patients remaining under treatment.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases.—18 cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever (13 of them soldiers) with 8 deaths—(5 soldiers). 331 of Diphtheria (20 of them soldiers), with 22 deaths. 161 of Scarlet Fever (18 of them soldiers), with no deaths; 628 of Measles and German Measles (80 of them soldiers), with 3 deaths; 41 of Erysipelas, with 1 death; 17 of Enteric Fever (2 of them soldiers), with 2 deaths; 73 of Chicken Pox (1 a soldier), with no deaths; 31 of Ophthalmia Neonatorum (25 in 1916); 1 Paratyphoid and 5 mixed infections; there were 4 deaths from Whooping Cough; 28 from Diarrhœa (17 under 1 year of age), 22 from Influenza, and 4 from Tetanus. There were also 71 deaths attributed to other *septic diseases*

(peritonitis, cellulitis, etc.), (34 in the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital), and 177 to *malignant* (cancerous) growths—1 more than in 1916.

The total number of cases of infectious disease *admitted to the Isolation Hospital* was 551 (48 more than in 1916), and as there were 33 in the Hospital on January 1st, 1917, the total number treated was 584 (10 more than in 1916). The cases admitted included 140 with Scarlet Fever; 290 with Diphtheria; 8 with Enteric; 20 with Cerebro-Spinal Fever, chiefly soldiers; 3 with *mixed infections*, and 87 with other diseases—Measles, G. Measles, Mumps, Tubercle, &c. The total number of deaths was 32, distributed as follows:—Diphtheria 17, Enteric Fever 1, Cerebro-Spinal Fever 6, other diseases 8. The *average daily number of patients* was 48 (maximum 100, minimum 22); and the *average length of stay* for all disease was 32·3—less than in 1916 (*viz.*, 34·5). On December 31st, 1917, 70 patients remained under treatment; of the cases admitted for Cerebro-Spinal Fever 3 were “carriers”; 3 members of the staff contracted Diphtheria, and 1 Scarlet Fever—all recovering satisfactorily. In the Hospital Laboratory 15 “widal” tests were made, 130 examinations for tubercle, and 2,519 swabs were examined chiefly from Diphtheria “contacts.” 871 certificates of freedom from infection were issued to school children, “contacts,” &c., to enable the recipients to resume attendance at school, or work.

In April, 1917, a Clinic for the gratuitous diagnosis and treatment of Venereal Diseases was established at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, and has steadily been developing. Lectures on Venereal Diseases have been given (*a*) to the Police Force and Special Constables, (*b*) male teachers, (*c*) female teachers, and others are contemplated.

Midwives' Act.—There were 21 midwives on our register for 1917, 4 of them (not practising) Health Visitors, and 3 con-

connected with the Maternity Institution. Miss Hatton, C.M.B., the Inspector of Midwives, maintained a constant supervision over the midwives practising in the city with very satisfactory results. One midwife was struck off the roll.

Factory and Workshops' Act.—62 Inspections of factories and workshops, and 10 defects reported on and remedied; 121 lists of outworkers were sent in, 71 of them twice, and 934 inspections of outworkers' premises were made. We found work being done on unsatisfactory premises (Section 108), but in none of the cases did ~~me~~^w find it necessary to issue formal notices, the defects being remedied voluntarily. Infectious disease occurred in out-workers' dwellings (Sections 109-110), but in these cases also verbal representations only were required. The total number of workshops on the register was 577, and of factories, 407. There remained 3 underground bakeries (Section 101), in use at the end of the year. In 4 instances the Inspector of Factories referred nuisances remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshops Act.

Food and Drugs Act.—234 samples were purchased, and submitted for analysis (5 of the milks to bacteriological investigation for tubercle bacilli), and 2 of the samples *were specially taken under the Milk and Cream Regulations*. 196 of the samples were certified to be genuine, and 38 to be adulterated (34 of milk, 2 of butter, 1 of bread and butter, and 1 of cream). In 25 cases taken before the Magistrates fines varying from £5 to 1/- were imposed in 19 instances; 5 vendors were written to and cautioned, and in 4 cases no proceedings were taken.

The report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, summarized, shows that 2476 nuisances were detected, 5509 re-inspections made of premises, 2821 "special" complaints attended to,

850 rooms disinfected, 1503 billets for soldiers inspected, and 6170 visits paid to courts and yards; that there are 34 slaughter-houses, and that to these 4575 visits have been paid; that the markets have been regularly visited and inspected; that 12 carcasses of beef, 11 of pork, 6 of mutton and 2 of veal were among the 1000 odd items, or collections of unsound food destroyed; that water taken from wells proved "passable"; that there are 59 cowsheds on the register with 500 cows; 26 dairies and 164 milk-shops; that the common lodging-houses have been visited weekly; that 323 visits were paid to houses let in lodgings; that 8 inspections were made of caravans, 2 smoke observations taken, and 36 inspections made under the Shops Act (1912-1913); 51 special visits paid to piggeries and 380 to bake-houses; that 258 inspections were made of premises in connection with the Margarine Act; that 1138 loads of privy bin refuse were removed by the night waggons, and 22,521 loads of house refuse by the day (11,961 loads of refuse were sent by wherry from the Fishergate wharf); and that large numbers of hand-bills, asking householders to burn light combustible refuse, pointing out the danger of collections of refuse as breeding grounds for flies, and the desirability of saving fat and bones, etc., and dealing with the collection of waste paper, were distributed.

The Norwich Corporation Act, 1889, and the Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, the Public Health Acts Amendment Acts, 1907, are the general adoptive Acts in force in the district.

The presence in the city, and more particularly during the winter, of large numbers of troops, necessarily has added to our duties, especially in connection with the preparation of food (alike for soldiers here and elsewhere), supervision of the sanitary condition of billets and the prevention of infectious illness. And it is only fitting that I affirm that every member of the Public Health Department has worked cheerfully and efficiently, and coped successfully with all emergencies. These

added labours have been rendered the more acceptable (apart altogether from our irrepressible patriotism) by the cordial relationships which have been maintained between these sojourners in our midst and ourselves, and have all been directed to the sanitary ordering and well-governing of our people.

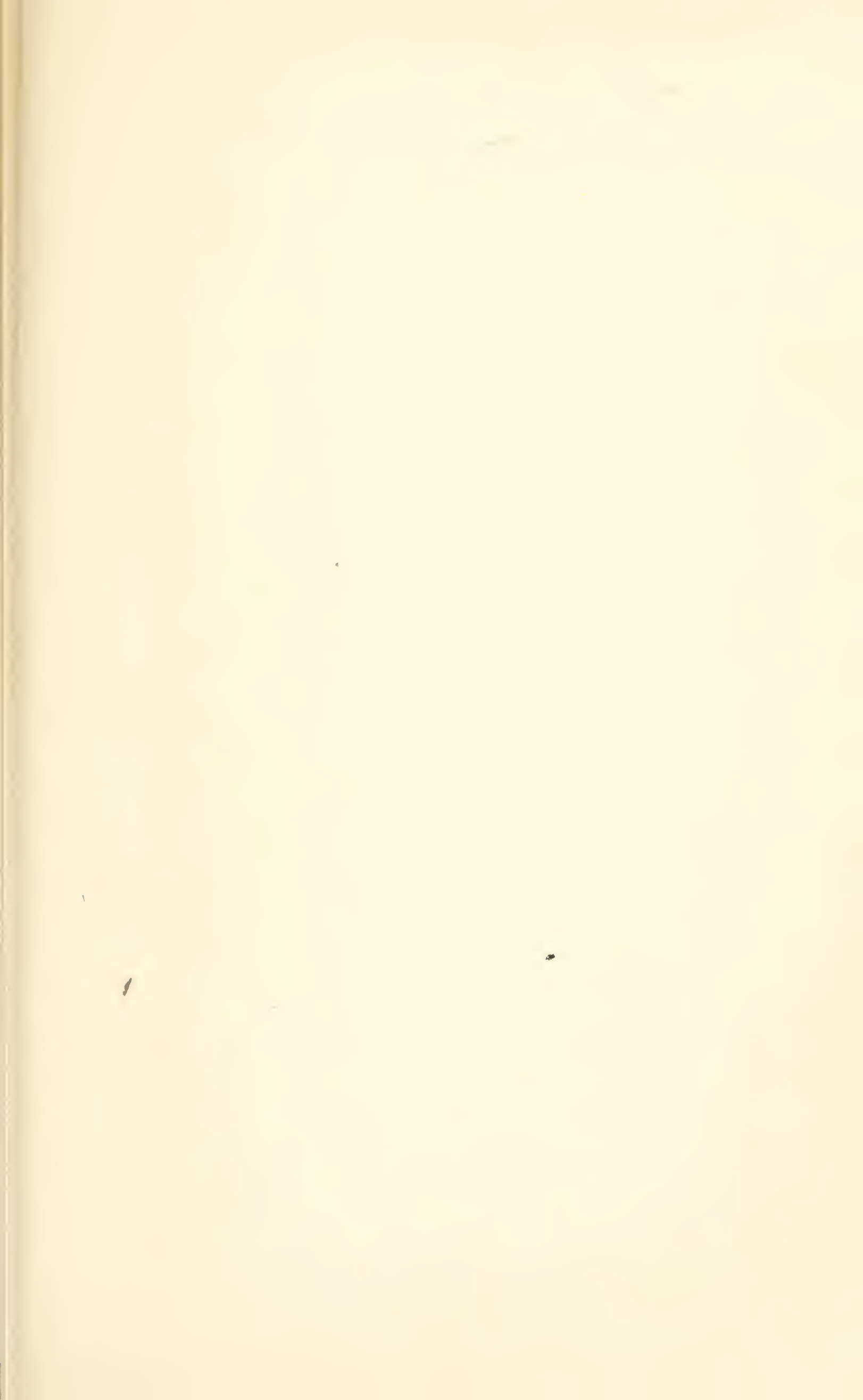
(Signed)

H. C. PATTIN.

Longest Day, 1918.

P.S.—The matters of importance in the foregoing abstract and summary are:—

- (a) The lower death rate.
- (b) The marked lowering in the birth rate.
- (c) Relative increase in births of illegitimate children.
- (d) The lower gross infantile mortality rate.
- (e) The higher infantile mortality rate for illegitimate children.
- (f) Increase in cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.
- (g) Fewer cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever (civil population).
- (h) Increase of Diphtheria and Measles „
- (i) Decrease in Scarlet and Enteric Fevers „
- (j) Decrease in Diarrhœa, Whooping Cough, and Phthisis.
- (k) Progressive success of, and at, Infant Welfare Centre.
- (l) Establishment of a clinic for treatment of Venereal diseases.





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